

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We have been heartened by the fact that you have not yet authorized the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Extension. However, with the news that you will not be making a final decision until at least June, we hope that you will choose not to authorize it. We believe that this would be the best decision, both for the environment, but also as an important step in solidifying our nation's increasing independence from oil.

Our environmental concerns are twofold. First, the proposed Pipeline would pose serious risks of oil spills and a resulting environmental disaster. The current plan for the Pipeline has it running through an active seismic zone. The area has experienced an earthquake as powerful as a magnitude 4.3 quake in the past fifteen years. The possibility that the Pipeline could be subjected to powerful seismic forces would put in jeopardy not only the environment of the states in its path, but the health of those states' citizens.

Second, the extraction of oil from oil sands produces more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than conventional oil extraction methods. The extraction process requires the steam heating of oil sands in order to reach the oil source. The Canadian government admits that this complicated process required by the Pipeline would increase the oil and gas sectors' GHG emissions by 33% by 2020. In addition, construction of the Pipeline would require the destruction of approximately 740,000 acres of forest, decreasing the capacity of our nation's natural carbon reservoirs. Not only would the Pipeline increase our national dependence on a "dirty" form of energy, but do so in the "dirtiest" fashion possible.

With the implementation of our own cap-and-trade system last year, California is working hard to reduce its GHG emissions. We hope the rest of the nation will as well, and we believe that refusing to authorize the Pipeline would be an important step in that process.

From an emphasis on growing the green energy economy, to consideration of a federal GHG reduction plan, your Administration has provided impressive leadership on the environmental front. We urge you to continue to do so by choosing not to authorize implementation of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Extension.

Sincerely,

Wally Chuck

Jim Wall

Wally D.S.C.

Annabeth Johnson

Steve Orbeck

Jim Han

William W. Manning

AM

AD

Yale St

Lari Hancock

Jim Beall

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Bob Blum

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Robert A. Wickowski

Paul Dwyer

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Don Immich

Mariko Yamada

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The following members of the California Legislature signed the above letter:

Wesley Chesbro, Assembly District 2

Lois Wolk, Senate District 3

Mark DeSaulnier, Senate District 7

Hannah-Beth Jackson, Senate District 19

Ellen Corbett, Senate District 10

Jerry Hill, Senate District 13

Bill Monning, Senate District 17

Leland Yee, Senate District 8

Anthony Rendon, Assembly District 63

Mark Stone, Assembly District 29

Bob Wieckowski, Assembly District 25

Nancy Skinner, Assembly District 15

Tom Ammiano, Assembly District 17

Roger Dickinson, Assembly District 7

Loni Hancock, Senate District 9

Jim Beall, Senate District 15

Fran Pavley, Senate District 27

Noreen Evans, Senate District 2

Mark Leno, Senate District 11

Ted Lieu, Senate District 28

Kevin de León, Senate District 22

Richard Gordon, Assembly District 24

Bob Blumenfield, Assembly District 45

Richard Bloom, Assembly District 50

Paul Fong, Assembly District 28

Das Williams, Assembly District 37

Mariko Yamada, Assembly District 4